

By: Baxter

H.R. No. 615

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Memorial Day Weekend was established to pay tribute
2 to the generations of men and women who have served in our nation's
3 armed forces, and on May 29, 2005, Lieutenant Joseph Bonnell, an
4 unsung hero of the Texas Revolution, will be honored with a
5 historical marker commemorating his significant contributions to
6 achieving independence for Texas; and

7 WHEREAS, A West Point graduate and a member of the Long Gray
8 Line, Lieutenant Bonnell was assigned to the U.S. Army's 3rd
9 Infantry Regiment when he successfully quelled an uprising of 1,700
10 Caddo warriors through a peaceful negotiation with Caddo Chief
11 Cortes; his efforts helped enable General Sam Houston to focus the
12 full strength of his army on defeating Mexican troops led by Antonio
13 Lopez de Santa Anna at the famed Battle of San Jacinto, effectively
14 securing the independence of the Republic of Texas; and

15 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Bonnell's grave site at Laurel Hill
16 Cemetery in Philadelphia has been unmarked since his death on
17 September 27, 1840, and this unfortunate oversight is now being
18 rectified thanks to the generosity of the West Point Society of
19 Philadelphia; and

20 WHEREAS, Remembering the brave and dedicated individuals who
21 have risked their lives in the name of freedom and democracy is
22 essential to fully appreciating the comforts and abundances
23 American citizens may sometimes take for granted, and the
24 posthumous recognition of Lieutenant Joseph Bonnell serves as a

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1 powerful affirmation of our nation's military and a poignant
2 reminder of the difference that one person can make; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Lieutenant Joseph
6 Bonnell and commemorate the placement of a historical marker at his
7 grave site.